

THE CAUCASIAN.

VOL. XIX.

RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA, MAY 9, 1901.

No. 21

LETTERS OF THE PEOPLE.

SOME POLITICS AND POLITICAL TRICKERY UNDER DISCUSSION THIS WEEK.

TROUBLE ALONG THE OLD CAPE FEAR.

Some of the Ways That Are Dark And Tricks That Are Vain—How Things Are Done And Who Do Them.

THE DEVIL LOOSE IN THE AUGUST ELECTION.

GUM BRANCH, N. C., May 1, 1901. I send you some names as I want the good news scattered "all over the world." If there ever was a time when needed it is now. It is time that all good people were and doing, for they have been crushed, and may the good people gain the victory, and I know that God is not going to let the devil rule always. If the devil was ever loose he was loose in the August election. May it never be so again.

JOHN T. BARBER.

WANT LOVE AND JUSTICE TO REIGN.

MERRY HILL, N. C., April 29, 1901.

Enclosed find money order for my subscription. I am old and not able to work, but can't do without THE CAUCASIAN if I can possibly help it, for it gives me the truth about what the lawless redshirts are doing. I love truth and justice, and hope the time will come when they will control North Carolina, whether I live to see it or not.

G. W. COBB, SR.

STIRRING TIMES IN FAYETTEVILLE.

FAYETTEVILLE, April 29, 1901.

"When thieves fall out" honest men not only get their dues but find out the tricks and meanness of the thieves.

The mayoralty contest here is at a white heat. The "regular" Democrats here nominated W. S. Cook and the "irregular" Democrats have nominated J. D. McNeill, and the "regular" and "irregular" Republicans have nominated John Underwood.

Mayor Cook has made a very efficient officer. He is not one of these low, dirty politicians.

The morning of the August election, when the news reached Fayetteville that the registration book was stolen at Cedar Creek, some of the infamous ballot box thieves were going to fire off a cannon to celebrate the theft, and Mayor Cook issued an order saying the man or men who fired off the cannon in Fayetteville to celebrate such an infamous crime would be sent to jail.

Cook is being supported by the dispensary element, and McNeill by the whisky element.

McNeill is playing his last on the political stage.

He has been charged with more political rascality than any other man in the county, and as such as any man in the Third Congressional District, and doubtless he is guilty; he has never denied much of it, if any.

He is a member of the State Election Board, and had all the eternal fitness and a life-long experience. He said during the August campaign that he had resigned, but it proved to be a fake.

The anti-McNeill and Hale people have started a newspaper in opposition to the Fayetteville Observer, which is edited by H. I. McDuffie.

McNeill has registered every ev-ery negro in Fayetteville, and is using a one-legged school teacher as his right-hand man.

It is well remembered that Jim McNeill and G. A. Burns were running the August campaign the whitest of the white supremacy gang, but every negro school teacher is now being button-holed and patted on the shoulder, but "blessed are they who expect but little, for they shall not be deceived."

The taking of the testimony by Mr. Thomas in the Fowler-Thomson contested election is about completed. The contestee, Mr. Thomas, has utterly failed to contradict the testimony taken by Mr. Fowler.

GOVERNMENT CONTROL OF WIRES.

Congressman Dick Favours Radical Reforms in Postal System.

In an address before the Presidential Postmasters' Association of Ohio to day, Congressman Charles F. Dick, chairman of the Republican State committee, declared himself in favor of government control of telephone and telegraph lines. Discussing the Loud bill, Mr. Dick said he believed it would be enacted into a law by the next Congress. But this was not the greatest reform needed in the postal system.

All means of communication, he declared, should be under government supervision—telegraphic and telephonic, as well as the mail system. This is certain to come. The United States finds that the surplus of its products must be disposed of in the markets of the world. It must not only protect but aid its commercial interests, and communication is not only swift, but inexpensive.

If a telegraphic communication can be sent by the government for 5 cents, then a private corporation must not be permitted to charge and collect 25 cents for that service. The means of communication ought to be the government's monopoly and not that of a private corporation. Gen. Dick said that universal free rural delivery is certain to come within a very short time and declared himself emphatically in favor of a postal savings system.

Seven and Forty.

From the New York Press.

Seventy is a holy number. Forty, like 13, is a superstitious one. Did you ever try to enumerate its virtues? Moses was 40 days on the Mount; Elijah was 40 days fed by ravens; the rain of the flood fell 40 days; another 40 days expired before Noah opened the window of the ark; 40 days was the period of embalming; Nineveh had 40 days to repent; our Lord fasted 40 days; He was seen 40 days after His resurrection; St. Swithin betokens 40 days of rain or dry weather; a quarantine extends to 40 days; the privilege of sanctuary was for 40 days; 40 days was the limit for the payment of a fine for manslaughter; the widow was allowed to remain in her husband's house for 40 days after his death, etc. Hamlet loved Ophelia harder than 40,000 brothers. The best tale of the "Arabian Nights" is about Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves. We all take 40 whisks for a short nap. The 39 articles of the Anglican Church are "forty stripes save one." The Jews were forbidden by the Mosaic law to inflict more than 40 stripes on an offender, and for fear of breaking the law they stopped short of the number. And so forth and so on.

Judge Bennett Cited

Monroe Enquirer.

Dr. George Rainsford, of New York, used some very strong language when the charge was made that missionaries in China are responsible for the conditions existing in that country. Dr. Rainsford said that the charge of missionaries looking is "damned rot." When the doctor was questioned about his warm language he said that he did not advocate the use of such language, but there were times when such language was justifiable and that to say its use is never justifiable is absurd. Dr. Rainsford can appreciate the remark of Judge Bennett when the Bank of New Haven "went bust." "Oh, for some form of sound words the clergy might use under stress of great provocation."

Pekin Again Unsafe for Foreigners

London, May 1.—Dr. Morrison wiring to the Times from Pekin April 29th, protests that Count von Walderssee's policy of punitive expeditions has "thrown the greater part of the province of Chi Li into anarchy and disorder."

"This is so complete," he says, "that the neighborhood of Pekin is now more unsafe for foreigners than at any previous time since the occupation began. The trade with the interior is crippled. The only armed Chinese are robbers and 'boxers.' Retribution to the Chinese territorial jurisdiction has become a paramount need."

The correspondent mentions incidentally that neither the British legation nor General Gaslee was notified of the expedition into Shan Si.

Grandmother of Her Own Children.

New York World.

Dayton, Ohio, May 2.—A marriage was solemnized today, which makes a queer tangle in relationships. The contracting parties are John Karch, aged 59, and Mrs. Susie Karch, aged 22. The bride is the divorced wife of the son of the bridegroom.

The divorced husband is now living in Indiana. Mrs. Karch has two children, and as she has married her father-in-law the grandfather of the children becomes their step-father. Likewise Mrs. Karch will be the grandmother by marriage of her own children.

His Devotions.

Chicago Tribune.

Fanny—You bad boy! I don't believe you ever pray.

Tommy—Yes, I do. I thank the Lord every night and morning that I ain't a girl.

AVEY PLOW CO., TO JOIN THE TRUSTS

It is Stated They Make Between 15 and 20 per Cent of the Plows in the United States.

Louisville, Ky., May 1.—The stockholders of the Avey Plow Company, which is said to have the oldest plow factory in the United States, it having started operations in 1825, to-day authorized the directors to sell out to the new plow combination being engineered by Chicago capitalists, if they can get their price, which is between \$1,500,000 and \$2,000,000. The Avey company is said to make between 15 and 20 per cent of the plows made in the United States. It is said in Louisville that the new combination is to include eight factories in Indiana and Illinois and that the Avey plant at Louisville, and that it will, if formed according to the plan, control 90 per cent of the total plow output of the United States.

Precautions Against Spread of Typhus From Mexico.

Washington, May 2.—Extra precautions are being taken to prevent the spread of typhus fever from Mexico into this country, according to a statement made to-day by Surgeon Wyman, of the Marine Hospital Service.

General Wyman said that medical inspectors, stationed at the three principal crossings between Mexico and the United States, have been regularly inspecting every train crossing the frontier.

New Manager of Seaboard.

Norfolk, Va., May 2.—The management of the Seaboard Air Line Railway Company's system was to-day assumed by Mr. James M. Barr. His title is first vice-president and general manager. He comes from the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe, of which he was formerly third vice-president. Mr. John Skelton Williams, president of the Seaboard, came here from New York with Mr. Barr and installed him. These two officials will shortly make a tour of the entire Seaboard system.

Funston, The Man From Kansas

William Allen White will contribute to an early number of The Saturday Evening Post, of Philadelphia, a striking anecdotal article on "Fighting Fred" Funston, the man who captured Aguinaldo. This is the second of a series of remarkable character studies by this brilliant journalist now appearing in The Saturday Evening Post.

Mr. White will also contribute to early numbers of the magazine an unusually interesting short serial story dealing with Kansas life.

Why Should She?

Mr. Bleebsmeyer—My dear, you have an irritating habit of asking "Why?" after every statement I make. Now, won't you try to break yourself of the habit?

Mrs. Bleebsmeyer—Why, certainly, my dove. I'm sure I didn't know I did. I'll certainly try to break myself of the habit, as you suggest. But why?

Russia to Borrow \$100,000,000.

Berlin, May 2.—The Vossische Zeitung prints a special dispatch from St. Petersburg, announcing that Russia has virtually arranged with France for loans amounting to 500,000,000 francs, and that another Russian loan is being negotiated with English and American bankers in London.

The dispatch further says that the czar is planning for a trip abroad during next August, and that he will visit Copenhagen, Darmstadt, and Vienna.

Not Successful.

Philadelphia Press.

"Willie," said mamma, "didn't I tell you to wash your face?"

"Yes, ma'am," Willie replied, "and I did wash it."

"I don't believe you. It's just as dirty as ever."

"Mamma," piped little Elsie, who had just been vaccinated, "maybe he did do it, but it didn't 'take' the first time."

College Yells.

From the New York Weekly.

Successful Farmer (whose son has been to college)—What was all that howlin' you was doin' in the grove?

Cultured Son—I was merely showing Miss Brighteyes what a college yell is like.

Farmer—Wall, I swan! Colleges is some good after all. I'm goin' into town to sell some truck to-morrow. You kin go along an' do 'er callin'.

North Carolina Synod of Lutheran Church.

Greensboro, N. C., May 2.—The North Carolina Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church convened in annual session today at Gibsonville, near this city. Among the most important questions to come up during the session will be the removal of North Carolina College, the synodical male educational institution, located at Mount Pleasant.

Forgotten.

SIGNS OF AWAKENING

SOME OPINIONS AS TO THE DEAD WEIGHT AND DECADENT DEMOCRACY.

PEOPLE SPEAKING OUT PLAINLY.

Denial of the Red Shirt Anarchy—Some Predictions as to the Future—Advice to "Christian People"—and Other Utterances.

There is no doubt that some of the most effective influences in the Southern country are actively at work with a view to forming a new era of thought in the South, and that the main hope is to dislodge from councils and power that class of men who hold ballot-box stuffing and fraud and red shirtism as the highest principles in politics. It is a fact that for some years past such a purpose has been openly declared by a number of the most able and honest men in the South, and while they have adhered to that purpose, they have been given such a baptism of political fire as the old, moss-back regime supporters could administer. But these pioneers never wavered, and now some of their most ferocious opponents of past years are falling into line. Even Mr. W. J. Bryan sees the signs of the times and utters a warning to the "Democracy"—that Democracy which bases all existence it can claim on a platform stolen from the People's Party, and which depends for its success solely on fraud, ballot-box stuffing and red shirt force.

A few comments here appended—some of which may have been published before, will offer some suggestion as to the efforts being made, and which it may well be hoped will prove successful.

Nothing to be Proud of.

Charlotte Observer.

Two phrases have been dinned into their ears until they are sick at the stomach—"white supremacy" and "negro domination." These will neither persuade nor scare the people of North Carolina hereafter. An attempt was made, after the August election last year, to warm them over and work them for November, but it failed signally and had to be abandoned. In truth, considering that there are three white men in North Carolina to one negro, and that the whites own practically all of the property, and are possessed of all of the intelligence, there is nothing to be particularly proud of in the fact that our people were ever frightened by the cry of "negro domination"; the people of Georgia, where race conditions are much the same as they are here, could never be so frightened and hence have declined to take even the first step toward the adoption of a constitutional amendment to disfranchise the minority and inferior race. But that is neither here nor there—we have our own mind and the white folks propose to have the freedom which they where promised should go along with it; indeed, they have already begun to enjoy it.

Advice to "Christian People."

Biblical Recorder.

"We have at last come to the end of the political war. Now may the people and the churches have rest; and may all Christian people give up contention to those leaders who may seek again to make fellow citizens hate one another. Now is the time for us to establish a new political basis in North Carolina, recognizing the right of any man to vote as he pleases and demanding that politicians shall wage their campaigns on principles instead of passion. It is with the people."

Waiting for a "New Party."

Our Home.

We remember very well how the editor of the Wadesboro M. & I. and his kind, had had spells when funstons filled a few places with the same men who created the offices. If it becomes generally known that the Democrats are doing even worse along this line than the funstons did, we are afraid our friend Boylin will wash his hands of the whole business and form a new party. We are waiting for a new party ourselves—a party that is not completely dominated by self-seeking machine demagogues, but we would rather join one that has a good start.

McLaurin Endorsed.

Edgefield, S. C., April 26.—Senator McLaurin has many warm supporters here. In Senator Tillman's own county. They feel that the South has been practically dead for many years, and the national Democratic party is a set of dry bones like an Egyptian mummy. It is asserted that while God has given man free agency, the South for many years has had no more free agency as to national policies than a railroad engine, but she is now the subject slave of antiquated issues and a few fat office holders. There is a resurrection of new life in McLaurin's speech at Charlotte that is like the spring trees, putting on the tender leaves of hope for national good to the South.

Hidden Treasure Found.

Akron, O., May 1.—Joseph Meyers, employed on the old Osborne farm, has dug up a pot containing \$3,500 in gold. It was found near the barn. This is the second discovery of gold made on the place, the total being more than \$5,000. Osborne's relatives have always contended that there was \$20,000 hidden in various places.

Robbers Plead Guilty.

Macon, Ga., May 1.—O. M. Chestnut of Jacksonville and Cliff Jordan of Macon, charged with robbing a Southern express car on the Central of Georgia railroad, plead guilty before the police recorder this morning and were bound over to the grand jury in the sum of \$1,000.

THE BETTER IT WILL BE FOR THE COUNTRY.

Western Carolina News.

If the tone of the press represents public sentiment, and it usually does, the second administration of President McKinley will be known in history as our most marked era of political good feeling. Even the rankest partisan editors are expressing wishes that the President's trip to the Pacific Coast will be enjoyable to him, and the preparations for his reception all along the route are being participated in by men of all political parties. This is as it should be, and the longer it continues the better it will be for the country.

Sectional Prejudice Waning.

Kansas City Journal.

President McKinley's efforts to re-establish fraternal relations between the North and the South are not without results. There are many gratifying evidences that the sectional prejudice which has held on so tenaciously among the Southern people has greatly weakened within the last few years. It is true that the war with Spain was largely responsible for this, but it was mainly the President's treatment of the South in the conduct of that war that did the work. The appointment of Gen. Fitzhugh Lee, Gen. Wheeler and other prominent ex-Confederates to important positions in the military service accomplished more in the direction of reuniting the two sections than anything else ever attempted.

Bryan on the "New Movement."

Lincoln, Neb., May 2.—In a statement made to-day, William J. Bryan takes Senator McLaurin, of South Carolina, to task, for what he declares is his political flop. At the same time, Mr. Bryan admits that Senator McLaurin's action marks the beginning of a movement in the South, which will have an influence upon the politics of the nation. He says:

"It is not likely that Mr. McLaurin will be the leader of the movement, because he is handicapped by the fact that he is using his official position to misrepresent the views and interests of his constituents, but some leader will arise to give direction and force to the aristocratic and plutocratic element for which Mr. McLaurin speaks. There is such an element in every community, and now that the race question no longer unifies the white people of the Southern States, it will doubtless manifest itself."

Senator Tillman has already taken up the gauge of battle thrown down by Senator McLaurin, and will doubtless be able to marshal a considerable majority in that state, but the same influences are at work in other states, where there is greater danger of their success.

Once a "Fire Eater."

Haywood Journal.

Ex-Senator M. C. Butler, of South Carolina, puts the seal of his approval upon the course of Senator McLaurin of that state in supporting the administration's foreign policy. He also approves the course of President McKinley toward our new possessions. In his opinion it would be healthy for South Carolina to have an active opposition to the machine that occupies the saddle in that State. Ex-Senator Butler as our readers will remember was once the bitterest fire eater in the whole South, and such a modification of views is a significant sign of the times.

A TOWN MADE MOTHERLESS.

A Terrible Disaster on the River Duleep.

London, May 3.—A special dispatch from Odessa, dated April 26th, purports to give an eye-witness story of the recent ferryboat disaster on the River Duleep near Katchanovka, when almost a hundred mothers, with their babies, returning from the evening milking were drowned. A sudden storm sprang up, there was a panic, the pontoons swamped and only a few of those on the ferry were saved by a boat.

Three persons clung to a horse which swam ashore. Practically every family in the village was rendered motherless by the disaster.

Mississippi Cotton Growers in a Dilemma.

Jackson, Miss., May 1.—Farmers of this section have just discovered that their cotton seed planted prior to the cold wave has not and apparently cannot thrive. Because of high prices paid by the oil mills last winter the farmers sold all they could spare from their seed plots, reserving only some planting.

Interior merchants are holding what little seed they have at \$35 per ton but the oil mills here propose to sell all they have at cost \$18 per ton.

Another Calamity.

THE SOUTHERN CITY OF JACKSONVILLE RAVAGED BY A FEARFUL CONFLAGRATION.

GREAT LOSS—THOUSANDS HOMELESS.

Over One Hundred Forty Blocks Go Up In Smoke—Hotels, Theatres, Churches and Everything Wiped Out—Disaster As To Loss of Life—An Appeal For Help.

Jacksonville, Florida, May 4.—The most disastrous fire in the history of this city began yesterday shortly after noon in a small factory, from a defective wire, according to the best belief and burned for nearly ten hours. In that time a property damage estimated from \$10,000,000 to \$15,000,000 was effected.

According to the city map one hundred and forty blocks were burned, many of them in the heart of the business and residence section. The estimate of houses to the block is ten, hence 1,400 of them went up in smoke. Many of the finest public and private buildings were destroyed, including hotels, theatre, churches and residences.

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The casualties cannot be accurately estimated tonight. That there were several seems to be well authenticated. Among them was that to the Fire Chief, who sustained a bad fall. The Mayor ordered all of the saloons closed, and has impressed people here to clear the wreckage.

The Mayor at a late hour, stated that he estimated the loss at \$15,000,000, and that 10,000 to 15,000 people were homeless.

The situation is one approaching desolation in a large section of the city.

The burned district reaches from Burbridge street on the north, to the St. John's River on the South, a distance of not quite two miles. The width of the devastated area is thirteen blocks. Within this space practically everything is blackened ruins. On Bay street, the principal mart of trade, the Western Union Telegraph Company's building is the first going west. Everything east of Laura on Bay is gone.

At 10:15 o'clock the fire was under control, having practically burned itself out. The suburban settlements, with the exception of La Villa, are intact. La Villa was badly hurt. The extent of the damage cannot be told until to-morrow.

Thousands of persons are on the streets tonight homeless, with practically all their worldly possessions upon their backs. The depots of the railroads, situated in the southwestern section, have been turned into temporary lodging houses and hospitals. Luckily the weather is fine, so that there will be no suffering on that score.

The city is under martial law and all of the available State militia is on duty in the streets. Some order is being brought out of the confusion. Jacksonville is meeting the emergency calmly and has organized for relief work. Ten thousand people are homeless, and many of them left on afternoon and night trains for St. Augustine and other coast cities and nearby towns, while numerous river craft took many to little places on the St. John's river. Supply stations have been established in various parts of the city and all day they have been thronged by the hungry. One story, which is persistently reiterated, is to the effect that a party of men and women driven to the docks by the fire were compelled to jump in the water and that several of them were drowned.

A sail boat that was at the boat yard was made use of by Alfred Ball, a member of the Jacksonville Rifles, who lives in Springfield suburb, at Third and Main streets. Mr. Ball says: "There certainly were many lives lost at that point. The shrieks and cries for help that came to my ears during the first moments of the four hours that I was in the river were heart-rending and awful. I was utterly helpless to aid. I am positive that at least five persons were drowned at that place. I got in a sail boat at Gardner's yard, at 5 o'clock. There were about 15 persons aboard, two negroes among the number. When we got into the boat every avenue of escape was cut off. We got a line to the steamer Edith, and she pulled us from the dock. A moment later the line parted. Two boats drifted alongside and eight persons tried to get into them. Both boats capsized. I saw several go down and drown. Several of those who got out of the sail boat were swept under the wharf at the foot of Market street, and I think all must have perished. I got to the wharf and for four hours held to the piling. When I was rescued I was badly burned about the head. I felt a body float against my legs and tried to lift it to the surface, but failed. Undoubtedly there were many lives lost at the foot of Market street."

Says Arthur Cummer, of the Cammer Lumber Company: "We heard the shrieks and calls for help as we steamed from the wharf at the last minute. We heard numbers of persons were in peril on the wharf and made for the pier again. A sail boat was cornered in the docks. Young Coxswain, of St. Augustine, swam to the steamer

Edith, and we gave him a line. The line either parted or was burned. In the same instant both steamer and boat were enveloped in dense smoke. We got a glimpse of the sail boat drifting in shore and then disappeared in the flames. As the Edith steamed toward mid-channel to escape, we heard agonizing cries for help. There is no doubt but that all in the boat suffered a frightful fate."

The officers and crew of the Edith report that they saved 60 persons who had jumped into the river to escape flames.

Postmaster Exam Appeals For Help.

Washington, May 4.—The following telegram officially reporting the Jacksonville fire and appealing for help was received to-day at the Postoffice Department:

"Jacksonville, Fla., May 4. Postmaster-General, Washington, D. C.

"Three-fourths of the residence and business portion of the city was destroyed by the great fire here yesterday. The postoffice was in much danger at one time, but was uninjured. Great suffering will ensue and assistance should be sent the city, as thousands are homeless and without means of support.

(Signed) "DENNIS EGAN, Postmaster."

CIVIL RULE FOR MANILA.

The Trial of Lieutenant Boyer has Been Completed—No Verdict.

Manila, May 3.—The civil government in Manila was established to-day as a preliminary to the inauguration of a general civil government. Judge Taft says a municipal government for Manila will shortly be created.

The Board of Health has completed the census of Manila. The population numbers 224,732.

The trial of Lieutenant Boyer, charged with commissary irregularities has not been announced.

The trial of Captain Barrow, also charged with commissary irregularities, begins Monday.

Yellow Fever in Havana.

Washington, May 3.—Yellow fever has made its appearance in Havana and the order of the Secretary of the Treasury suspending the quarantine regulations until the 15th instant has been revoked. The new order of the presence of the disease was forwarded to the Surgeon General of the Marine Hospital Service by Dr. Glennan, chief quarantine officer for Cuba. He says there are two cases of the fever in Havana, but makes no report for other parts of the island. The quarantine regulations, which go into effect immediately, require certificates of immunity from persons coming from South America, and five weeks absence from Cuba on the part of persons coming from that island through Northern ports.

Chinese Eating Each-Other.

Des Moines, May 3.—Minister Conger has received messages asking cooperation in giving relief to starving millions in Northern China. Minister Conger says the suffering of the famine stricken people in Shansi is indescribable.

"Prince Ching told me only two days before I left Pekin," said Minister Conger, "that these people were literally eating each other. They have eaten every blade of grass, every bit of bark—everything in fact that can be eaten in that province. Nothing has been raised there for two years, and unless relief is given many thousands must perish."

China Can't Pay Indemnity Without Assistance.

Pekin, May 2.—At a meeting of the Ministers yesterday the report of the Indemnity Committee was read. It is claimed that the revenues from all available sources will not allow China to pay the indemnity unless assistance is rendered.

The next meeting will be held next Tuesday. The subject of Count von Walderssee's letter will then be taken up and a reply to it will be drafted. The Ministers personally object to the tone of the letter. They claim that they know what they want without being told. They particularly object to any of the legation guards being under any authority except that of the Ministers themselves.

A Cat the Mother of Chickens.

The correspondent of the Richmond Times from Bristol, Va., says: "A pet cat as the mother of a brood of young chickens may seem rather odd to be true, but such a state of affairs exists at the home of Dr. H. T. Berry, in Bristol. The hen had warmed the nest of eggs when she dropped and died. Observing the deserted appearance of the nest, about which the cat had played, she coiled herself